

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
IO-13 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 BIB-01 EB-08 OMB-01 /101 W
-----022623 311536Z /42

P R 311438Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5456
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USNATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, CZ, UR
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV VISIT: SECOND DAY

REF: PRAGUE 1377

1. FROM PRESS REPORTS IT APPEARS THAT SUBSTANCE OF BREZHNEV VISIT TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS LARGELY DEALT WITH ON AFTERNOON OF FIRST DAY OF VISIT, PERHAPS LEAVING REST OF STAY FREE MAINLY FOR CEREMONIAL ACTIVITY. MAY 31 PRESS CARRIES CTK REPORT OF PREVIOUS DAY'S MEETING WHICH READS LIKE A FINAL COMMUNIQUE (WE ASSUME FBIS WILL HAVE FULL TEXT). FOCUS OF TALKS ON BILATERAL TOPICS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN LARGELY ECONOMIC, ALTHOUGH "SECURING COLLECTIVE DEFENSE OF WARSAW PACT STATES" WAS DISCUSSED AND STRONG EMPHASIS HAS BEEN PUT ON GOC-USSR "POLITICAL UNITY." "SOCIALIST INTERNATIONALISM" WAS, UNSURPRISINGLY, PROMINENTLY
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MENTIONED ALSO, ALONG WITH THE NEED FOR VIGILANCE VIS-A-VIS THE ENEMIES OF DETENTE. ON INTERNATIONAL TOPICS, ONLY NEW ITEMS WERE STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR SOVIET INITIATIVE PRESENTED BY GROMYKO AT SSOD AND CONDEMNATION OF "ARMED INTERVENTION OF NATO COUNTRIES IN ZAIRE."

2. SECOND DAY OF VISIT FEATURED MASS MEETING OF PARTY,

STATE AND NATIONAL FRONT LEADERS TO HEAR BREZHNEV SPEECH.
A SLIGHT LIGHT TOUCH WAS GIVEN TO THIS MEETING AS TV
SHOWED EFFORTS OF BREZHNEV AND HUSAK TO STAY AWAKE DURING
PRELIMINARY SPEECHES. LESS APPEALING WAS HUSAK'S EXPRESSION
OF GRATITUDE FOR ASSISTANCE OF WARSAW PACT BROTHERS IN 1968.
EARLY PART OF BREZHNEV'S 35-MINUTE SPEECH WAS UNREMARKABLE,
BUT KNOWLEDGE OF FULL TEXT OF SPEECH MUST AWAIT JUNE 1
PRESS SINCE TV/RADIO RELAY FROM CONFERENCE HALL TO TRANSMITTER
BROKE DOWN IN 17TH MINUTE OF SPEECH AND WAS NOT REGAINED FOR
9 MINUTES. (THIS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY START RUMORS OF SABOTAGE BY
DISSIDENTS). MAIN THEMES WE HEARD WERE BILATERAL COOPERATION,
DETENTE AND DISARMAMENT. MEETING ENDED WITH EXTENDED VERSION
OF SOVIET ANTHEMS WHOSE WORDS MANY OF ATTENDEES HAD APPARENTLY
MEMORIZED - HUSAK, AMONG OTHERS SANG ALONG WITH MUSIC,
BUT BREZHNEV DID NOT.

3. IN SPITE OF FAIRLY ACTIVE SCHEDULE, BREZHNEV HAS SO
FAR APPEARED FIT. HIS SPEECH IS SLURRED BUT NO MORE SO THAN
ON OTHER OCCASIONS WE HAVE HAD OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR HIM.

4. WE ARE AWARE OF WESTERN REPORTS THAT SMALL NUMBER
OF DISSIDENTS WAS PUT UNDER PREVENTIVE ARREST, BUT SO
FAR WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM THIS OR OBTAIN NAMES.

5. DECONTROL 4 YEARS FROM ORIGINATING DATE.

BYRNE

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